

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Committee Description



READ TO DISCOVER:

- What are the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council?
- Who is included in the Economic and Social Council?

Established in 1946, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) discusses issues related to economic and social progress of nations. The major responsibilities of this council include promoting higher standards of living, finding solutions for international humanitarian issues, and encouraging human rights. ECOSOC has dealt with international problems such as development, gender equality, and education. Most recently, ECOSOC has been involved in dealing with the post-earthquake crisis in Haiti and promoting the economic development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

ECOSOC has two main powers regarding specific problems which are to make reports and recommendations to the General Assembly and to call important international conferences dealing with economic and social issues.¹

ECOSOC is made up of 54 members chosen by the General Assembly. The 54 spots are distributed by geographic region: 14 African, 11 Asian, 6 Eastern European, 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 13 Western European nations. Each member of ECOSOC serves a three year term.



The meeting room for ECOSOC.

Source: Kjetil Ree²

¹ UNECOSOC. <<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>>; UN Charter. Chapter X: The Economic and Social Council. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>>.

² Photo Credit: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:United_Nations_Economic_and_Social_Council.jpg